

## PARENTAL CONSENT

Consent means that: (1) you have been fully informed of all information relative to the activity for which consent is sought, in your ***native language*** or other mode of communication; (2) you understand and agree in writing to the carrying out of the activity for which your consent is sought, and the consent describes that activity and lists the ***records*** (if any) that will be released and to whom; and (3) you understand that the granting of consent is voluntary on your part and may be revoked at any time.

Your written consent must be obtained before: (1) conducting the initial ***evaluation*** and ***assessment*** of your child; and (2) initiating the provision of early intervention services. If you do not give consent, an early intervention program consultant shall make reasonable efforts to ensure that you:

- (1) Are fully aware of the nature of the ***evaluation*** and ***assessment*** or the services that would be available; and
- (2) Understand that your child will not be able to receive the ***evaluation*** and ***assessment*** or services unless consent is given.

If you do not give your consent for initial ***evaluation***, an early intervention program consultant may provide encouragement

by: (1) providing you with relevant literature or other materials; (2) offering you peer counseling to enhance your understanding of the value of early intervention and to address your concerns about participation in the Birth to 3 Connections programs; and (3) periodically renewing contact with you, on an established time schedule, to determine if you have changed your mind concerning the desirability of recommended procedures or services.

If you do not give your consent for the initial *evaluation*, the early intervention program consultant may initiate an impartial hearing for resolving *parent*/provider disagreements including impartial due process procedures.

In addition, as the *parent* of a child eligible under the Birth to 3 Connections program, you may determine whether your child, or other family members, will accept or decline any early intervention services under this program in accordance with state law. You also may decline such a service after first accepting it, without jeopardizing other early intervention services under this program.

Finally, you have the right to written notice of and written consent to the exchange of any *personally identifiable information* collected, used, or maintained under the Birth to 3 Connections program, among agencies consistent with Federal and State laws. (See section on Confidentiality of Information.)